

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 4, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 36 have been amended and claims 32, 33 and 40 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is being presented. Therefore, claims 4, 8-14, 16, 17, 29, 31, 34-39 and 43 are pending and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claims 4, 8-9, 11-13, 29, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. However, it is noted that claims 4, 11 and 12 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Therefore, the rejections of these claims are believed to be overcome.

Regarding the rejections of claims 8, 9, 13 and 29, it is noted that these claims depend from claims 4 and 12 and that, therefore, the rejections of these claims are overcome for at least the reasons set forth above.

Regarding the rejection of claim 36, it is noted that claim 36 has been amended to recite that "the second solvent is between 60% and 80%" in accordance with the suggestions of the Office Action and that, therefore, the rejection is overcome.

Claims 4, 8-9, 10-14, 16-17, 29, 31-40 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. These rejections are traversed and overcome.

Initially, it is noted that claims 4, 10 and 43 are rejected because, according to the Examiner, "it is unclear what is meant by 'a dielectric constant that is greater than or equal to 20.'"

Responsively, applicants submit that the claim language is clear on its face. According to Encyclopedia Britannica, the dielectric constant is the "property of an electrical insulating material (a dielectric) equal to the ratio of the capacitance of a capacitor filled with the given material to the capacitance of an identical capacitor in a vacuum without the dielectric material." See <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-9030383/dielectric-constant>. Further, it is noted that the dielectric constant is a number. See http://clippercontrols.com/info/dielectric_constants.html#E. Lastly, it is noted that the term, "greater than or equal to" is a clear description of the value of the dielectric constant. As such, the claimed statement, "a dielectric constant that is greater than or equal to 20" is believed to be clear and, thus, applicants assert that the rejections of claims 4, 10 and 43 on the basis of the conclusion that the phrase is unclear is without merit. Therefore,

applicants assert that the rejections of these claims are traversed.

Next, it is noted that claims 11, 12 and 14 are rejected because, according to the Examiner, "it is unclear what is meant by 'a polarity high enough to dissolve an ionic compound.'"

Responsively, applicants note that claims 11, 12 and 14 have been amended to recite "a first solvent having a polarity sufficient to dissolve Li₂S_n (n = 1, 2, 4, 6, 8)." This claim language is clear on its face and is supported in the specification by at least paragraph [0021].

Thus, applicants assert that the language of claims 11, 12 and 14 has been corrected and that, therefore, the rejections of these claims are overcome.

Next, the Examiner explained that claims 4, 10 and 43 and 11, 12 and 14 are rejected because of the apparent differences in claim language between the first set of claims and the second set of claims and in view of the fact that claim 29, which depends from claim 4, claim 31, which depends from claim 10, claim 43 and claim 14 each recite that the first solvent is methanol, hexamethyl phosphoramide, ethanol and isopropanol (which is not an accurate statement since, for example, claim 29 recites a larger group). It would appear that the Examiner is troubled by the fact that methanol, hexamethyl phosphoramide, ethanol and isopropanol are described as having a dielectric constant that is greater than 20 in claims 4, 10 and 43 and as having a high enough polarity to dissolve an ionic compound in claims 11, 12 and 14 (which are now amended - though, the issue presumably remains in the eyes of the Examiner).

Responsively, applicants note that claims 4, 10 and 43 as well as claims 11, 12 and 14 are independent claims and, as such, are not required to describe similar features of the respective claims (i.e., the first solvent of each of the claims) the same way. In other words, there is no prohibition for claiming a first solvent in claim 4 as one that has a dielectric constant greater than or equal to 20 and for claiming a first solvent in claim 11 as having a polarity sufficient to dissolve Li₂S_n (n = 1, 2, 4, 6, 8).

Thus, applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are without merit and that, therefore, these rejections are traversed.

Regarding the rejections of dependent claims 8, 9, 13, 16, 17, 29, 31 and 34-39, it is noted that these rejections are traversed and overcome for at least the reasons set forth above.

Lastly, regarding the rejection of claim 40, it is noted that claim 40 has been cancelled. Thus, the rejection of claim 40 is moot.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited. If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Finally, if there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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